

- 29) **Baseball.** Professional sports franchises came to Florida during this time period.
- 30) **Alligator.** This familiar, ancient reptile floats across the lake. The 1987 legislature named it the state reptile.
- 31) **Sable Palm.** This is Florida’s state tree.
- 32) **Liberation of Kuwait Service Pin.** In 1990 Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait resulted in a massive National Guard and Army Reserve call-up. Many operations were guided from Florida’s strategic air force command bases.
- 33) **The Miami Herald.** In August of 1992, Hurricane Andrew destroyed over half of Miami-Dade homes, effecting more than 250,000 people. Although hurricanes tornadoes and wild fires caused record damages in the 90s, tourism rose to record highs.
- 34) **City on the Horizon.** Florida remains one of the fastest growing states in the country, increasing by 600 or more new residents daily.
- 35) **Laptop Computer.** The launch at the center of the painting—as well as a hurricane—is viewed online from a Florida Representative’s desk. The glow from Kennedy Space Center is

- seen from an anticipated space station now under construction.
- 36) **Vote! Sticker.** The voter’s sticker is a reminder of the duty to vote and of the many sacrifices which have been made to provide the opportunity.
- 37) **Journal of the House of Representatives.** This is the official record of actions taken by the House and its committees and is of vital significance. The courts look to it for an accurate accounting of the formal steps taken if a law should be challenged on constitutional grounds.
- 38) **Frame Molding.** The molding is from the John and Mable Ringling Museum, and appears on all of the murals. The Ringling Museum is the official state art museum of Florida.
- 39) **White Handkerchief.** To signal the final adjournment of the Florida legislature, a handkerchief is dropped by both Sergeants at Arms for the House and Senate. The two men stand centered between the two legislative bodies in this traditional ceremony that gives two distant chambers a visual signal of closure.

Special Thanks To:

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Speaker John Thrasher, Florida House 1999-2000	Tom Camp	Megaloudis
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A New Age

A PAINTING BY CHRISTOPHER M. STILL

OIL ON LINEN, 126" BY 48"

A young girl on a sunny dock reads a book about history and Florida’s natural beauty. Her friends fish, play, and beckon to the viewer to join them, amidst reminders of the changes, sacrifices and struggles that have shaped their world. This painting is a symbolic exploration of events that impacted the growth and character of Florida from World War II to the year 2000.

The colorful World War II medal on the frame recalls millions of soldiers trained in the state—many of whom later returned as tourists, and to make it their permanent home. This was the beginning of Florida’s spiraling growth, fueled in large part by the advent of air conditioning, represented here by a nostalgic sign advertising cool respite from the summer heat.

Opportunity and technology bloomed in the Sunshine State. Symbols of its major industries, as well as some of the changes that growth and technology effected on them are here. An orange and a can of concentrated orange juice sit near the painting’s frame, along with a post-card advertising a garden attraction—with a hint nearby of the giant theme parks to come. A World War II flying helmet reflects the blazing light from a modern space shuttle launch.



As Florida’s population and economy grew at such a rapid pace, so did demands on its infrastructure, resources, and environment. The water tower in the distance symbolizes one of the state’s most precious resources, and the earthworm on the frame provides an ecological reminder that, even within the framework of modern technology, such simple creatures are necessary to sustain us.

Rapid growth and change also brought social problems—such as inadequate representation for an increasingly diverse population, and the lack of civil rights for Florida’s African-American citizens.

A photograph in the girl’s book honors one heroic Floridian who was assassinated for his role in the fight for justice for African-Americans. The folded memorial flag in the center of the painting is meant to represent all such heroes,

be they civil rights activists, soldiers, or public servants, who died serving others in their state.

It is appropriate that children, representatives of new generations, growth, and change, are a primary focus here. Although this painting looks back at the events leading to the present, it also looks forward. So, as the children play and recreate in the Florida sunshine, as have many before them, one child points in wonder toward the future.

A New Age

CHRISTOPHER M. STILL

This painting again includes maps depicting Florida within its time period. Many comparisons can be made between this mural and the one directly across the Chamber. The light from one painting is intended to shine upon the other. In both depictions, people are captivated by fish they have caught, and each work has a figure pointing to draw attention to the future on the horizon. Notice also the same flock of wood storks moving across the Florida sky.

- 1) **Victory Medal, WWII.** Soldiers from all over the country trained in Florida during World War II, and were often stationed in hotels that had previously hosted tourists. Many of these soldiers returned after the war to become permanent residents.
- 2) **Flying Helmet.** This canvas WWII flight cap represents the important role Florida played in aviation. Good weather and flat open areas were perfect for airstrips. National Airlines started the country's first domestic jet service from Miami to New York in 1958.
- 3) **Memorial Flag.** Presented to families whose loved ones died in service to their country and state, here this flag represents the sacrifices made by those soldiers, public servants and civil rights leaders who helped shape the state.
- 4) **"River of Grass".** Written by author/environmentalist Marjory Stone-man Douglas, *The Everglades: River of Grass*, published in 1947, shaped the world's perception of that part of Florida's unique and fragile ecosystem. In that year, Everglades National Park was dedicated. Also in that year, federal engineers began a project to drain the Glades.
- 5) **Orange Juice Concentrate.** Concentrated orange juice was initially developed in jelly form to supply vitamin C-enriched juice to overseas troops. After WWII, the product was improved in taste, and became a popular domestic item, a boon to the citrus industry. The familiar Disney character, Donald Duck, appeared on the label in 1947. Disney World theme park opened in 1971.
- 6) **Cow.** Florida cattlemen used to allow their cattle to roam freely. Increasing numbers of automobiles and damage to property led to a law in 1949 requiring fences around cattle herds.
- 7) **Cypress Gardens Postcard.** Cypress Gardens, was one of many Florida tourist destinations that focused on the

natural beauty of the state in the 50s and 60s. These attractions were central to tourism prior to the development of the mega theme parks in the 1970s.

- 8) **Korean Service Pin.** The nation entered into war again in the 1950s, while WWII veterans were busy resettling, sparking a housing boom.
- 9) **Photo of Harry T. Moore.** Harry Moore, a brilliant, soft spoken educator from Suwannee County organized voter registration campaigns and investigated acts of violence against African Americans during the 40s. He also traveled throughout Florida organizing NAACP branches. On Christmas eve in 1951, a short distance from Cape Canaveral in the city of Mims, an anonymous figure planted a bomb which killed both Moore and his wife. This event was reported around the world and led to increased support of the civil rights movement by the outraged public and the federal government.
- 10) **Telegram to Governor Collins.** Sent to Governor Collins in 1956 by Reverend C.K. Steele, the telegram called for his help in preventing further injustices to African Americans during a bus boycott led by FAMU students. Collins took office following the Supreme Court mandated desegregation of Florida in

1955, and steered a moderate course between the "Old South" and integration orders.

- 11) **Air Conditioning Sign.** Air conditioners first appeared in restaurants and movie theaters, advertising this luxury to attract customers. No single invention effected the growth of Florida more than this appliance.
- 12) **Cuban Embassy Coat of Arms.** In 1959 Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba, leading to a massive immigration of Cubans to Florida. This bronze coat of arms was retrieved from the gates of the Cuban embassy in Miami during a demonstration following Castro's revolution. An estimated 500,000 refugees sought freedom in Florida over the next twenty years.
- 13) **Movie Film Reel.** The film industry brought its cameras to the tropical environment of Florida, creating popular films that furthered tourism.
- 14) **Seminole Indian Jacket.** The beautiful craftsmanship of Seminole clothing remains a lasting symbol of their native culture.
- 15) **Earthworms.** To temper the modern, global view, this is a reminder of the simple creatures that help sustain us.
- 16) **Vietnam Service Medal.** In a rapidly changing period of civil rights, equal

rights, and coeducation, Floridians were again called to serve in wars promoting democracy overseas. This medal was received by a young man who later became Speaker of the Florida House, and who spearheaded the Chamber renovations that included these murals.

- 17) **Cape Canaveral, Kennedy Space Center, and the Space Shuttle Endeavour.** The launch shown here—the first of the year 2000—was a radar topography mission to create 3-D maps of the earth's surface.
Home to NASA's Florida launch operation, the space center was established in 1949, the same year legislation was passed to keep cattle from roaming freely. The space agency successfully sent the first American into space and placed a man on the moon. The dangers of space travel were dramatically illustrated in 1986 by the tragic disaster of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*. Launches are visible from most Florida backyards.
- 18) **Water Tank.** A water tank releases water at launch time to reduce heat. The cloud seen during a launch is mostly steam created by this process. As demand increases with Florida's growth, water management has become an important state issue.

- 19) **The Moon.** The 1970 legislature named the moonstone Florida's state gem on the occasion of the second moon landing.
- 20) **Orange.** The 1967 legislature declared "the juice obtained from mature oranges of the species *citrus sinensis* and hybrids is hear by adopted as the official beverage of the State of Florida". Recent development of fresh juice processing and distribution has made Florida a leader in world juice production.
- 21) **Social Security Card.** Retirement, health care and pension funds has had a strong impact on Florida's economy. This particular card identifies its holder as Claude Pepper, best known as a champion for the elderly in Congress. He represented Florida from 1927 until his death in 1989.
- 22) **Bait Bucket and Net.** The children collect minnows from the lake in the painting. Florida passed legislation in the 1990s prohibiting use of a certain type of nets that were adversely impacting the saltwater ecosystem.
- 23) **Raccoon.** This mammal is a common site throughout Florida's parks and suburban neighborhoods.
Lawton Chiles, representing Florida in its House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and then as governor, was

known by the nickname "He-coon." He died just before his last term of office ended. In 1998, Jeb Bush was elected governor, giving that office and both houses of the legislature to the Republican Party for the first time since reconstruction. They honored the late Governor Chiles by creating a health research endowment in his name.

- 24) **The Speaker's Gavel.** This is a symbol of the Florida House of Representatives.
- 25) **Largemouth Bass and Blue Gill.** These freshwater fish may be caught throughout the state. The largemouth bass is the official state freshwater fish.
- 26) **Water Hyacinth.** Representative of the many exotic and invasive plants currently in Florida, the water hyacinth chokes waterways and creates challenges for water management.
- 27) **Citrus Groves.** Many of the state's groves succumbed to hard freezes in the early 1980s, and a major outbreak of the med-fly in 1998, led to burning of some groves.
- 28) **Smoke.** The rising smoke symbolizes wild fires—a part of Florida's ecosystem, but sometimes devastating to personal property. Seen above the grove, it also represents the ongoing battle with the Mediterranean fruit fly.

(Continued on the back)

